



ALEXANDRIA:

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 15, 1861.

CONGRESS.—In the Senate yesterday, Mr. Douglas' resolution in relation to public property, was discussed. A resolution to omit the names of the Senators from the seceded States, in calling the roll, was adopted.

THE STATE CONVENTION.—Ex-President Tyler concluded his speech yesterday, commenced on the day previous. The propositions of the Peace Conference were referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.—The majority report of the Committee will be taken up to-day.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.—In the Senate, on Wednesday, the bill for the incorporation of the Richmond and Liverpool Packet Company was passed. The Committee for Courts of Justice, to whom was referred a resolution asking for a Stay Law, reported it inexpedient to make any such recommendation. In the House of Delegates the bill for the inspection of guano was, on motion of Mr. McKenzie, referred. The bill for the voluntary enlistment of free negroes, without compensation to the Commonwealth, with a rider attached, passed. The bill to ratify the sale of the James River and Kanawha Canal was amended and ordered to be engrossed.

The noble sentiment—so exultingly, enthusiastically, and unanimously adopted previous to the election of the Virginia Convention—of holding on to the fortunes of Virginia, whatever they might be—submitting to the decision of the representatives of the people and the will of the people—being true and loyal sons of Virginia—never forsaking her soil or her destinies, and all that—is now, we are sorry to see, just as exultingly repudiated in certain quarters. Exaggerated statements are made of the determination of citizens "indignantly to quit the State," if it does not secede, and are now often followed, with commendation of the spirit which induces such a resolution, &c. We note these things with regret. There would, it is true, be very few who would leave Virginia for such a cause—especially during the present crisis, when under any and all circumstances, in or out of the Union, Virginia would be the best State to live in on the continent of America—but the change of tone cannot but be contrasted with previous declarations.

The Richmond Whig expresses the hope that the Administration at Washington, seeing the good result produced by the evacuation of Fort Sumter, will follow up the policy they have commenced, and immediately resolve on the evacuation of Fort Pickens, and all other places now held by the Federal Government within the limits of the seceded States. This done, the secession movement will have an abrupt and final end in all the Border States, and the probability of an ultimate restoration of the Union, including each and all of the seceded States, will increase rapidly with each recurring day, until that consummation, so devoutly desired by every patriot in the land, will be surely effected.

It is stated in letters from Washington that "Mr. Seward has today addressed a note to the Commissioners of the 'Confederated States,' in reply to their application for an interview, declining to receive them 'from motives of high public consideration.'" This is regarded as giving a quietus to the mission, as they desired an interview with Mr. Seward to arrange an interview with the President. Messrs. Crawford and Forsyth have telegraphed to President Davis the result of their application to Mr. Seward, and are awaiting instructions to return home. If this be so, it will be authoritatively known in a few days.

A brother-in-law of Dr. Wirt, of Westmoreland county, Va., has published the substance of a conversation held by Dr. Wirt with Salmon P. Chase, the present Secretary of the Treasury, in February last, in which Mr. Chase expressed the most obnoxious anti-Southern and coercive sentiments. His appointment in Lincoln's cabinet was every way improper, and cannot be too strongly condemned. It is said in some quarters that there is no cordiality or agreement between him and some other members of the cabinet.

The Richmond Dispatch believes, and has been informed, that the U. S. Government intends to strengthen Old Point, to concentrate troops there, &c., &c., and it, therefore, recommends that the people of Virginia should not allow another soldier or another pound of powder to enter that Fortification! Does the Dispatch want this new move to be precipitated without legal authority, and contrary to existing law?

Henry W. Thomas, esq., the Senator from this District, made a very able speech in the State Senate against the Strasburg Extension bill, previous to its indefinite postponement. His argument was a conclusive one, and a complete refutation of the views of the Senators who supported the bill. Its effect was undoubted.

The New York Post is explaining to the government at Washington the difficulties and expense that will be incurred in any attempt now to collect duties in or off the harbors of the seceded States.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company have declared a dividend of 3 per cent on the stock of the main stem of their road, and 4 1/2 per cent on that of the Washington branch, for the past six months.

The Richmond Whig recommends that the Virginia State Convention adopt the recommendation in favor of a Conference of the Border Slaveholding States—utter an earnest and solemn protest against coercion on the part of the Federal Government towards the seceded States—pass a resolution approving, endorsing and recommending the Peace Conference settlement as a just and equitable basis of a final adjustment of the difficulties between the two sections—and, finally, adjourn over until next autumn.—The Whig is strongly in favor of a Border State Convention.

The Alamo (Texas) Express says:—"From the complexion of affairs in our State little can be gleaned of a definite character.—Bankruptcy and ruin seem to be following swiftly at the heels of the secession movement, and like an evil genius secession stands ready to spread war, famine and pestilence in our midst. But who can fathom the future? Sufficient unto human wisdom are the events of to-day. He who rules the universe alone can dispose of to-morrow.—Things are bad enough now; they may be better; they may be worse; God grant that they may be better."

The Navy Department have received dispatches from Commodore Bell, commanding this squadron, dated U. S. flag-ship Richmond, Messina, 16th February, ult. The Ironsides arrived at Naples on the 30th January, and was remaining there. Matters continued greatly unsettled at Naples, and an attack on the citadel at Gaeta was daily looked for. On the 15th February an accident occurred, resulting in the death of John Fitzgerald, seaman, and serious but not fatal injury to Joseph Heilmann, seaman, and Lorenzo Messina, musician.

The Washington Star of yesterday afternoon says:—"We hear that the Hon. Thomas Corwin yesterday addressed a letter to the President, thanking him kindly for his flattering tender of the Mexican mission, but declining to accept it. It is understood that Mr. Corwin was not an applicant for any position under the executive branch of the Government."

The evacuation of Fort Sumter having been determined upon by the President, the United States steamer Crusader has been detailed to proceed from New York to Charleston and embark Major Anderson and the garrison under his command and convey them to some other port.

An arrival at New Orleans brings the news that the British Government has recognized the Constitutional Government in Mexico; and that Gen. Urquiza has accepted the mission from Mexico to the United States.

We are requested to say, in correction of an article which appeared in this paper some days ago, that the Hon. Charles E. Sinclair has removed to and settled in Memphis, Tennessee, and not to Mobile, Alabama.

The President has renominated Mr. Chas. B. Throckmorton of Md., to a second lieutenant in the fourth artillery. Mr. T. was nominated by Mr. Buchanan, and that nomination not being acted on, fell through.

A despatch from Savannah states that the report of the seizure of the stock of the Macon Railroad—held by Northern subscribers—by the Georgia authorities is devoid of truth.

A large edition of the speech of Mr. Sumner, recently delivered in the Virginia Convention, will be published in pamphlet form at the office of the Richmond Whig.

Bishop Scott presides at the Baltimore Annual Conference M. E. Church, which commenced its session at St. Charles yesterday.

Gen. Scott is now roundly abused at the North for advising the evacuation of the Southern Fortifications.

The necessity for an extra session of Congress is strongly urged in some of the papers of the Northern States.

APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, &c.—It is said that both Mr. Corwin and Mr. Clay decline the mission to Mexico and Spain, which have been tendered them.

The President nominated Col. Sumner as Brigadier General, vice Gen. Twigg, in accordance with the regular order of promotion.

The following are the confirmations made by the Senate: John C. Goodrich, collector at Boston; George W. McKellan, Second Assistant Postmaster General; Dewitt C. Littlejohn, consul at Liverpool; William H. Vessey, Consul at Aix La Chapelle; Lucius G. Forbes, postmaster at Beloit, Wisconsin; John J. Speed, postmaster at Louisville, Ky.; George Harrington, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; J. P. Baker, of Nebraska, agent for the Orea and Menominee Indians.

Secretary Cameron's appointment of Mr. John Potts as Chief Clerk of the War Department is in acknowledgment of services rendered by that gentleman during the past two and a half years. Mr. Potts, of the State of Pennsylvania, has been appointed Disbursing Clerk in the War Department. Mr. T. C. De Leon, of South Carolina, a clerk in the Topographical Bureau, has resigned.

John L. Hayes, Esq., has been appointed Solicitor of the Court of Claims.

SALE OF WOOLLEN GOODS.—The sale of a large lot of cloth, cassimeres, &c., manufactured at the Crenshaw Woolen Mills, took place yesterday at one of the stores under the Spotswood House and was attended by a number of dealers from Petersburg, Lynchburg and Norfolk. The fabrics elicited the universal commendation of all the dealers present. In consequence however of the lateness of the season, a preference was given to thin goods, and but a small quantity comparatively of the heavy cloth was disposed of. The sale was made more for the purpose of introducing the goods to the market than anything else, and in that view was successful. We have seen some splendid specimens of broadcloth, and doan cassimere, lately made at the above mills which would bear favorable comparison with the best French fabrics.—Rich. Disp.

SUCROLOGUE POWDER.—We were informed this morning by a gentleman of undoubted veracity that some time last week 250 hales of okum were landed at the Gosport Navy Yard and each bale was found to contain a keg of gunpowder. The schooner Mist is said to have brought them from New York and our informant said that the Captain of the ship was his authority. If the report is correct our curiosity is quite excited to know the why and wherefore of the smuggle and why some non-combustible material was not used for the purpose of concealment. The whole affair looks improbable, but stranger things may have happened, and would not have excited as much wonder as does this, from the excited and unsettled state of public affairs.—Norfolk Day Book 13th inst.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company have declared a dividend of 3 per cent on the stock of the main stem of their road, and 4 1/2 per cent on that of the Washington branch, for the past six months.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the times." Large quantities of arms and munitions of war continue to go South from New York, notwithstanding the vigilance of that remarkable man, Superintendent Kennedy. The steamer Jamestown, which left on Tuesday for Norfolk, had her main deck literally loaded with gun carriages, and rifles in boxes and cases. The former were shipped to the order of Capt. Randolph, of Virginia, and were manufactured at Troy. The impression is, that their real destination is some point further South.

Though Southern demand for a month back has revived business at New York, and brought out of warehouses some three millions of dollars' worth of commodities more than were put in during the same time, yet the falling off of revenue for said month, as compared with that of the corresponding period of last year, is probably not much less than three-fourths of a million of dollars.

The missing steamer Australasian is a propeller of about seven hundred horsepower. Her provisions against fire, stranding, or leakage, are good—she having one independent donkey engine, coal pumps, and a large number of boats. She has four water-tight compartments. About fifty passengers embarked on her at Liverpool, for New York.

Bids for carrying the mails on nearly nine hundred routes in New York and in the New England States, will be opened on the 31st instant. The annual cost of carrying the mails in the States, under existing contracts, is \$1,002,000. Of this \$728,702 is paid for the transportation of the mails over 5,444 miles of railroad.

A contractor on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad communicates to the Mobile Tribune, that he sold, on the 15th, his force of seventy odd slaves, (which he had on the construction of this road,) men, women, and boys, at an average of \$1,370.50, at twelve months' credit, with interest.

The New York police, just before day-break on Tuesday morning, made a descent upon a fashionable gambling establishment, kept at 4 Clinton Place by one Geo. Beers, and took into custody a party of thirty individuals, together with a number of dealing boards, faro boxes, money checks, &c.

Captain M. T. Goldsborough, of Talbot county, Md., visited Easton, in good health, last Saturday; but on returning home, was seized with apoplexy, and died the next morning, in the 49th year of his age. He was one of the wealthiest and most enterprising farmers of Talbot.

Mr. Henry Aucker, an old and respected, and supposed wealthy citizen of Juniata county, Pa., was brutally murdered on the evening of the 9th instant, by two strangers, who came to his house, and presenting a pistol demanded his money.

The New York Central Railroad, in anticipation of the opening of the Canals, has reduced the rates on flour to 65 cents per bushel, and on grain 30 cents, hence to New York.

The vote in the Mountain District for delegates to the Convention, is, says the Raleigh Register, a very decided repudiation of Senator Clingan's fire-eating proclivities.—His own county is dead set against him.

Hon. John J. Crittenden has accepted the invitation of the City Council of Boston to visit that city, and he is expected there the early part of next week.

The Georgia State Convention has formally transferred its forts, arsenals, arms, and munitions of war to the "Confederate States."

The new code of laws for Maryland contains a stringent enactment against secret societies of colored persons in that State.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette. RICHMOND, March 13, 1861.—On yesterday, the famous Montrose Tonnin bill, as Mr. Thomas denominated it, the Strasburg extension, was called up by Mr. Isbell, of Jefferson, who proceeded to reply to the able and elaborate speech made by Mr. Thomas, when the subject was under discussion some time since.

Mr. Thomas replied to Mr. Isbell, and, in the course of half an hour, he exposed the pretence by which the bill was sustained. He showed conclusively that as far back as the authorities of the Winchester and Potomac Rail Road had looked exclusively to the city of Baltimore to obtain the money to build the road, and that at that time it was avowed that by making the connection they would draw the trade over the Manassas from the west and take it to Baltimore. So powerful and overwhelming was the argument of Mr. Thomas, that more than one Senator, in my knowledge, who had promised to support the bill, yielded to the force of the objections to the scheme and declared their opposition thereon.

A petition of 700 in favor of the scheme, together with lobby members from Winchester, and strong outside influence, was brought to bear, but all to no purpose. Alexandria need have no fears that this bill can pass so long as she has the able and indefatigable Thomas in the Senate—so thoroughly conversant is he with the operation and connexions of our improvements, that he can readily expose the evils which will grow out of any competing schemes thereon.

LOUDBON.

ANOTHER TERRIBLE GALE IN ENGLAND.—On Wednesday, February 20th, a furious gale swept over London and the surrounding country. In fact, it amounted to a perfect hurricane, and great was the consternation generally caused by the falling of stacks of chimneys, walls, palisades, and everything which afforded a butt to the wind and was not of sufficient strength to resist its violence. The houses in the more exposed situations were shaken to their foundations, much to the terror of the inhabitants. A large destruction of property is reported. The north wing of the Crystal Palace at Sydenham was totally destroyed. In Gloucestershire and Worcestershire the loss of property was very great. Trees in hundreds were thrown down, and many houses were unroofed. At Southampton and other points on the coast great damage was done to the shipping. Throughout the west of England the trains were delayed and telegraphic communication seriously interrupted.

RAPPANNOCK COUNTY.—At a meeting of the Conservative Union party held on the 1st inst. John G. Lane, esq., Chairman, Charles Green, esq., was nominated for the House of Delegates, and James K. Marshall for the State Senate, subject to the decision of a Convention to be held at Warrenton on the 4th Monday in this month. Delegates were appointed to meet at Calpeper Court House in a Congressional Convention to nominate for Congress. James Barbour and Geo. W. Brent were spoken of, but the Delegates were not instructed.

The Democratic party of Rappahannock nominated J. T. Fletcher for the House of Delegates, and appointed delegates to meet at Warrenton on the 4th Monday in this month, to nominate a candidate for the State Senate.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, on motion of Mr. Johnson, the rules were suspended, and House bill to incorporate the Richmond and Liverpool Packet Company was taken up and passed.

Mr. Gatewood reported a bill to incorporate a company to construct a railroad from Strasburg to Winchester.

On motion of Mr. Coghill, Senate bill for the relief of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad was taken up, and Mr. Wickham offered a substitute, and it was adopted by a vote of 28 to 8.

The substitute provides that it shall be lawful for the Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company to pay on or before the first day of January, 1864, with interest thereon at the rate of six per cent. per annum from the day on which such arrearages became due, such temporary arrearages as may be now due, or may become due to the State within two years next ensuing.

A motion to reconsider the vote by which the issue of treasury notes was passed gave rise to a discussion of some length as to the merits of the amendment of Mr. Brannon, incorporated in the bill. The amendment provides that the issue shall not be made unless the Convention now in session shall so direct. A motion to lay on the table and make the order of the day was rejected—ayes 17, noes 23.

The motion to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed was then carried—ayes 25, noes 19. The vote by which the bill had been read a third time was also reconsidered.

The motion to reconsider the vote on the amendment, resulted in—ayes 24, noes 20. The motion recurring on the adoption of the amendment, it was rejected—ayes 21, noes 24.

The bill, with but a few slight verbal amendments, was passed—ayes 32, noes 11.

Mr. Coghill, from the Committee for Courts of Justice, to whom was referred a resolution asking for a stay law, reported it inexpedient.

In the House of Delegates, Senate bill authorizing the inspection of guano and ground plaster was read twice.

Mr. McKenzie desired the bill to be sent to the proper committee. He was of opinion that these inspectors were nothing more than the imposition of an unnecessary tax upon the people of Virginia. It operated to pay certain persons large salaries for doing nothing. It was opposed to the principle of creating officers for the remuneration of political tricksters and party wireworkers. The bill was committed.

The bill for the voluntary enlistment of free negroes, without compensation to the Commonwealth, was taken up and passed, after the following rider had been attached to it, offered by Mr. Magruder, of Albemarle:

"The master or mistress of any free negro heretofore voluntarily enslaved, shall have the same right to the custody, control and services of any infant child or children of any such negro so enslaved, as heretofore provided for; but, before the master or mistress shall be entitled to the custody, control and services of such child or children, he or she shall appear before a Court of Record, and make claim to such custody, control and services, which claim shall be entered of record; but if any such negro child has been heretofore bound out by the overseers of the poor of any county or corporation, the articles of indenture shall in nowise be affected hereby."

The bill, as thus amended, passed with but few dissenting voices. The unfinished business of Tuesday came up next in order, being the bill to ratify the sale of the James River and Kanawha Canal. Several amendments were offered, which were discussed at length. The bill was then ordered to its engrossment.

THE STATE CONVENTION.

In the Convention, on Wednesday, the consideration of the report from the Commissioners to the Peace Conference was resumed, and—

Mr. Tyler (Ex-President) being entitled to the floor, proceeded to address the Convention in a criticism of the plan of adjustment adopted by said Conference. He commenced with a general review of the origin and progress of the Abolition party, and charged the leaders of that party with misleading the public will and judgment as to the true condition of the country. On assuming the position of Commissioner, he determined to confine himself to the instructions of the Legislature, by endeavoring to restore the Constitution and the Union, and was cheered with hope until the Conference proceeded to act. He then discovered that the members of the dominant party came there with no olive branch; the feeling of fraternity seemed all to be gone, and they had nothing to yield—the Constitution was enough for them. Nevertheless, he worked hard, and no man ever had more faithful colleagues; but it was soon obvious that no action could be adopted by that body which would conform to the requirements of the Legislature.

Mr. T. then proceeded at some length to comment upon the report adopted by the Convention, and to reply to the arguments presented by Mr. Summers.

Before concluding his remarks, he yielded the floor for a motion to adjourn, which was submitted by Mr. Shelley, and agreed to by the Convention.

THE INDIAN MARYLAND STATE CONFERENCE assembled in this city, closed its business yesterday and adjourned for the present. The action of the Conference is simply a negation of the necessity for any action on the part of Maryland at present. It being declared that "the policy and interests of Maryland require that no action shall be taken by which the State shall be committed until the State of Virginia shall have determined the question of a proposed Conference or some other measure requiring the cooperation of this State." The Convention further resolved that the proposition for a Conference among the Southern Border States, by delegates deriving authority from the people, would meet the approval of Maryland, and appointed a Committee to visit the Virginia Convention and express to them "the foregoing assurance." What will be the exact mission of the gentlemen appointed upon this Committee, or under what authority they can claim a recognition from the Virginia Convention?—Baltimore American of yesterday.

FROM TEXAS—GALVESTON, March 11.—Gov. Houston has refused to recognize the State Convention. He considers that its functions terminated in submitting the Secession Ordinance to the people. He tells the Convention that he and the Legislature, which meets on the 18th inst., will attend to public questions. He favors the holding of a Convention to change the State Constitution, but opposes Texas joining the Southern Confederacy. The Convention in reply have passed an Ordinance claiming full sovereign powers, promising to consummate as speedily as possible the connection of Texas with the Confederate States. The Convention will at once require all officers of the State to take an oath of allegiance to support the new Government and carry out the Convention ordinances. It is reported that Clark will be put in Gov. Houston's place, if the latter refuses to take the oath. It is also reported that Gov. Houston is raising troops on his own account. (?) Fifteen hundred Texan troops are at and near Brownsville.

MERCER POTATOES.—200 bushels White Mercer Potatoes, for sale by J. N. HARPER & CO.

COUNTRY BACON.—We have a large lot of Country Cured Hams and Sides, of very superior quality. [m] J. N. HARPER & CO.

CLIANO.—We have on hand a good supply of the best of the Spring Trade. [m] J. N. HARPER & CO.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The discussion in the Senate, to-day, on the resolutions of Messrs. Douglas and Fessenden, was able and protracted, but before taking a vote on them, the body decided to engage in Executive matters. There were several nominations sent in, but the names of the favored ones, and the places assigned to them have not transpired.

The chamber in which sits the highest judicial tribunal known to the Constitution, was the place of commanding interest to-day. The substance of the important decision made to-day in the celebrated, almost romantic case, in which Mrs. Myra Clark Gaines figures as the heroine, has, ere this, been transmitted over the wires to every section of the country. I will endeavor, as briefly as possible, to furnish your readers with the outlines of the case.

Mrs. Gaines (widow of General Edmund Gaines) was born in the City of New Orleans. Her reputed father was Daniel Clark, for many years a citizen of New Orleans, engaged in extensive mercantile transactions, and dying there, left an immense estate. Myra Clark was brought up in the family of a friend, and she was kept entirely ignorant of the name of her father, and of course, the property to which she was entitled until she had reached perhaps the age of twenty. Some years afterward she took legal steps to obtain the possession of the estate, and the case has been in the Court of Louisiana, in the Federal Circuit Court, and in the Supreme Court of the United States, in all, say twenty years.

The Executors of Daniel Clark, presented every obstacle in the way of the fair and wronged claimant, and the difficulties with which she has had to contend, the expenses incurred, and the persecutions she has been subjected to, are other lady not blessed with her heroic courage, and indomitable will. I doubt whether those women of historic fame, Queen Elizabeth of England, and Queen Isabella the Catholic of Spain, females as all the world knows, were remarkable for their boldness, perseverance, and almost superhuman powers of endurance, during their eventful career, ever had more startling, and what seemed to be insurmountable trials to grapple with than those which have followed the lady about whom I am writing. The night has been a long and gloomy one, but the light which shone in the temple of justice to-day, has scattered and dispelled the darkness. Justice has come at last, though ever so tardily.

Justice Wayne was the organ of the court in pronouncing the decision, which is in favor of the lady on every particular. Judge Catron, it is said, was the only dissenting Justice. The point upon which the whole case turned was the legitimacy or illegitimacy of the claimant. The court were of the opinion that the proof was entirely satisfactory that Daniel Clark, and the mother of Myra, were lawfully married, and that consequently she was the legal heir of Clark.

The decision secures to Mrs. Gaines, all the property of her deceased father, now in the hands of Alfred Henning; but there is another case, in which the property is held by the city of New Orleans, and which is undecided, not yet decided. The case, however, are identical in every particular. The real estate of Daniel Clark, lies in New Orleans, several parishes in Louisiana, and in the City of St. Louis, and is probably worth one or two millions.

Many employ much larger figures in estimating the value of the estate than I have given.

There was a lovely display of the softer sex in Court, and Mrs. Gaines' face was covered with smiles.

Although the principle is fully established in the decision, the parties retaining the bulk of the property may yet give Mrs. Gaines a vast deal of trouble, and she may possibly have to pass through years of vexatious litigation, in the court of Louisiana, to recover her rights. The persevering and excellent lady was warmly congratulated upon her triumph by ladies and gentlemen, both in and out of the court room.

The Hon. Caleb Cushing was the principal counsel for Mrs. G. His fee was a contingent one, and the sum named was two hundred thousand dollars.

The great Kentucky and Ohio *manumission* case was also decided by Chief Justice Taney in favor of the last named State. The opinion, in effect, is, that it is as morally wrong to take or withhold a slave from his owner, as it is to take his horse or any other species of property, yet there is no power in the Federal Constitution to command or coerce a sovereign State.

One of the warmest admirers of Justice John McLean, of the Supreme Court, informs me that the health of that eminent Jurist is fast declining, and that serious apprehensions are entertained that he will not be able to resume his seat on the bench. This will be painful intelligence to the numerous friends of the Judge.

The Republican newspapers of to-day, contain an article on policy of the administration, which strongly favors Union, harmony, and peace. It is written with ability, and a fraternal spirit, and it is surmised that it is the production of one in high position, and may be considered semi-official.

We have had another cabinet meeting to-day. Rumor says that the appointment of territorial officers, and the Sardinian Mission were the topics of discussion. Carl Schurz, and Mr. Burlingame, of Massachusetts, are aspirants for the nice birth at the Sardinian Court, and present appearances indicate that the German Republic will win the prize.

HON. JOHN COCHRANE IN RICHMOND.—A number of the personal friends of Col. Geo. W. Lave, who lately resigned his commission in the U. S. Army, serenaded him on Wednesday night at the Exchange Hotel, in Richmond. Colonel L. was introduced by Lieut. Gov. Montague, and responded to the compliment in a short speech. Hon. John Cochrane, of New York, being at the Hotel, was called out, and his speech, briefly delivered, was one of rare eloquence. He assured his hearers that there were thousands of true hearts at the North beating in unison with theirs; and that, if war was forced upon the country, the battle would not be against the South alone, but that Northern bayonets would be pointed against Northern bosoms. He expressed strong hope of an eventual restoration of the Union, and said that Virginia now held the destiny of the country in her hands. Cochrane he denounced in most emphatic language.

THE VIRGINIA PENITENTIARY.—The annual report of the Board of Directors for the year ending September 30, 1860, sets forth that the balance in favor of the manufacturing department is \$2,074.75.

The goods manufactured and delivered to the General Agent during the year, exceeded in value the amount of the deliveries of the preceding year by \$10,928.05, and the amount of manufactured articles on hand is \$1,452.38 more than the previous year, showing an increase of \$11,380.43 in the manufactures of the last over the previous year.

There were 289 free persons and 68 slaves in the penitentiary at the above date.

COUNTRY BACON.—We have a large lot of Country Cured Hams and Sides, of very superior quality. [m] J. N. HARPER & CO.

CLIANO.—We have on hand a good supply of the best of the Spring Trade. [m] J. N. HARPER & CO.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BALTIMORE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.—FIRST DAY.

[REPORTED FOR THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.] STANTON, March 13.—The Conference met in the newly built M. E. Church. Bishop Scott, presiding.

The Conference was opened with the hymn commencing "Except the Lord, &c."

Rev. Norvel Wilson and Wm. Prettyman led in prayer.

The roll was then called by Jno. S. Martin, Secretary of the last Conference.

On motion, John S. Martin was unanimously elected Secretary of the Conference. James S. Armstrong was elected Assistant Secretary.

Rev. Norvel Wilson presented the memorial of the Laymen's Convention of Baltimore Conference. He moved that it be read and made the order of the day for to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

Rev. J. L. Latham, from Alexandria, read a similar one.

Several others were presented and read. Upon the question as to whether the memorial of Rev. N. Wilson should be carried, or not, the Conference was referred to a select committee, composed of two members from each Presiding Elder's district, quite an able and animated discussion was elicited, in which Rev. N. Wilson, E. P. Phelps, J. Myers, Wm. Hirst, B. N. Brown and Thos. Sewall participated.

Thomas Sewall offered an amendment to the motion of N. Wilson—when the Laymen's Convention shall have reported—yeas 66, noes 63. Carried.

A division of the question was called for.

Rev. Mr. Thomas moved a substitute for the first part—that all he received and read—which was carried and adopted.

This question recurred on adoption of the second part—that these be made the order of the day for to-morrow—carried.

Rev. Mr. Wilson offered a substitute for the second part of Mr. Wilson's motion—that the preachers from each district select two of their number to constitute a Committee to whom these memorials be referred.

This was lost, and Mr. Wilson's motion carried.

From 9 A. M. to 1 P. M. was agreed upon by the Conference for its session.

Rules of the last session were adopted for the present session.

Samuel V. Leech was elected reporter for the "Baltimore Christian Advocate."

The Secretary then proceeded to read in succession, the memorials from the "Laymen's Convention of Baltimore," from the "Light Street meeting of Baltimore, from the Alexandria Quarterly Conference, and one from Frankfort, Ky., and also one from Ashbury, Ky., signed by J. P. Bell, of Kentucky Conference.

The Standing Committees were appointed as follows:

Necessities Cases—Wm. Hirst, Wm. Prettyman, Chas. P. Kirkson, Sol. McMullen, Stephen Smith, D. N. Arnold and S. D. Nixon. Dickinson College—S. W. Blake, W. B. Edwards, S. Rogers, J. Gardner, J. W. Kelly, J. C. Dea and J. W. Cornelius.

Seminaries—B. P. Binn, J. A. McCaulley, J. Landstreet, S. H. Griffith, William S. Baird and Speake Liger.

Temperance—Hoover, Cassey, Jno. H. Ryland, J. W. Tongue, S. H. Cummings, J. J. Ford and J. J.